

Message Text

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73

ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 DODE-00 EB-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00

ERDA-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 MC-02 L-02 SS-15 AID-05 /046 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:WFEATON:DRP

APPROVED BY AF/S:WPO'NEILL, JR.

AF/I - MR. ANDEREGG

PM/SAS - MR. SMITH

OSD/ISA/AF - MR. GEORGE BADER

COMMERCE - M. L. LICHT (SUBS)

EB/EWT - MR. GOODMAN

----- 049613

P R 251950Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 096247

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ESTC, MMOL, SF

SUBJECT: RSA AMBULANCE AIRCRAFT PURCHASE

REF: A. PRETORIA 1358, B. USDAO PRETORIA DTG 181400Z

APRIL 75

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

SUMMARY

1. THE DEPARTMENT HAS NOT RPT NOT APPROVED SALE OF MERLIN IVA AIRCRAFT IN AMBULANCE CONFIGURATION FOR THE SOUTH AFRICAN AIR FORCE (SAAF). THEREFORE DEPARTMENT AND DOD SEE NO REASON FOR COL. FAUL'S MAY 1-19 TRIP TO U.S. CONCERNING AMBULANCE CONFIGURATION AND DO NOT CONCUR IN HIS VISIT TO USAF FACILITIES.

END SUMMARY

2. IN LATE DECEMBER 1974 SWEARINGEN AVIATION CORP. OF SAN
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ANTONIO, TEXAS, SUBMITTED A LICENSE APPLICATION TO COMMERCE FOR THE EXPORT OF SEVEN MERLIN IVA AIRCRAFT, SIX IN VIP/EXECUTIVE CONFIGURATION AND ONE IN AMBULANCE CONFIGURATION. (IN ITS COMMERCIAL CONFIGURATION THE MERLIN IVA

IS A SMALL, TWO-ENGINE 20-SEAT AIRLINER.) SUBSEQUENTLY THE LICENSE APPLICATION WAS AMENDED TO READ FIVE VIP AIRCRAFT AND ONE AMBULANCE AIRCRAFT. AT DEPARTMENT'S

REQUEST, WRITTEN ASSURANCES WERE SOUGHT BY SWEARINGEN AIRCRAFT CORP. FROM THE ACTING COMMANDER OF THE SAAF, LT. GEN. ROGERS, THAT THE FIVE VIP AIRCRAFT WOULD BE USED ONLY FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF VIP/EXECUTIVE PASSENGERS AND THAT THE ONE AMBULANCE AIRCRAFT WOULD NOT BE USED IN ANY FUTURE COMBAT OR INSURGENCY SITUATION.

3. LT. GEN. ROGERS HAS PROVIDED THE REQUESTED WRITTEN ASSURANCES REGARDING THE FIVE VIP AIRCRAFT. SINCE 1970 OUR ARMS EMBARGO POLICY HAS PERMITTED THE SALE OF LIMITED NUMBERS OF SMALL EXECUTIVE TYPE CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT TO THE SAAF FOR VIP PURPOSES. WITH WRITTEN ASSURANCES IN HAND WE RECOMMENDED AND COMMERCE AGREED TO ISSUE A LICENSE ON MARCH 6 FOR THE EXPORT OF THE FIVE VIP AIRCRAFT. THESE AIRCRAFT ARE SCHEDULED FOR DELIVERY TO SOUTH AFRICA DURING JULY-SEPT. 1975 AND REPRESENT THE FIRST AIRCRAFT WE HAVE SOLD TO THE SAG SINCE THE IMPOSITION OF THE ARMS EMBARGO.

4. REGARDING THE AMBULANCE AIRCRAFT, LT. GEN. ROGERS PROVIDED ASSURANCES THAT THIS AIRCRAFT WAS FOR USE TO TRANSPORT SICK AND INJURED FROM OUTLYING AREAS TO HOSPITALS AND FOR USE IN OUTLYING AREAS AS AN EMERGENCY CARE UNIT WHEN REQUESTED BY THE RED CROSS AND OTHER EMERGENCY SERVICES. HE STATED THAT THE AIRCRAFT WOULD NOT BE "USED OR BE INVOLVED IN SITUATIONS ARISING FROM MILITARY COMBAT OPERATIONS INITIATED BY THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA." WE DETERMINED THAT LT. GEN. ROGERS' ASSURANCES DID NOT FORECLOSE THE USE OF THE AIRCRAFT IN A COMBAT SITUATION AND THEREFORE SALE OF THE AIRCRAFT WOULD CONSTITUTE A VIOLATION OF THE ARMS EMBARGO. WE INFORMED SWEARINGEN AVIATION THAT WE FOUND LT. GEN. ROGERS' ASSURANCES REGARDING THE USE OF THE AMBULANCE AIRCRAFT TO BE INADEQUATE
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AND THEREFORE WE COULD NOT ISSUE A LICENSE. THE COMPANY STATED ON MARCH 6 THAT IT WOULD UNDERTAKE TO SECURE THE ASSURANCES FROM LT. GEN. ROGERS REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT. SINCE MARCH 6 WE HAVE HEARD NOTHING FURTHER FROM THE COMPANY AND NO EXPORT LICENSE APPLICATION FOR AN AMBULANCE AIRCRAFT HAS BEEN RECEIVED BY COMMERCE.

5. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT LT. GEN. ROGERS HAS NOT PROVIDED THE REQUIRED END-USE ASSURANCES AND NO EXPORT LICENSE HAS BEEN OR SEEMS LIKELY TO BE ISSUED FOR THE EXPORT OF THIS AMBULANCE AIRCRAFT, THE DEPARTMENT AND DOD SEE NO PURPOSE TO BE SERVED BY COL. FAL'S PROPOSED MAY 1-19 TRIP TO THE U.S. CONCERNING AMBULANCE CONFIGURA-

TION AND THEREFORE DO NOT CONCUR IN HIS VISIT TO USAF
FACILITIES. KISSINGER

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY AIRCRAFT, STRATEGIC TRADE CONTROLS, AIRCRAFT SALES, EXPORT LICENSES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE096247
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AF/S:WFEATON:DRP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750146-0509
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197504103/baaaahzo.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 AUG 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: ESTC, MMOL, SF, US
To: PRETORIA INFO CAPE TOWN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006